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BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR, ENGINEER AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1963

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Medical Officer of Health:

N.Bowring Betts, F.R.C.S.

Surveyor, Engineer and Public Health Inspector:

L.J.Dunn, A.M.S.E.,A.M.I.P.H.E.,A.I.A.S.,M.R.S.H.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	55,770
Population (Estimated)	5,070
Number of separately rated hereditaments as at 1st. April, 1964	1,950
Rateable Value (as at 1/4/64).	£77,953
Sum represented by a Penny Rate as at 31/3/64..	£340.9.10

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District are directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. The District is a very popular holiday centre and many hotels, boarding houses and farms specialise in seasonal catering.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

10. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

An ante-natal clinic is held at Bideford.

11. CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

There are child welfare clinics held at Hartland and Bideford.

12. VENEREAL DISEASE.

A clinic for venereal disease is held at the North Devon Infirmary twice weekly.

13. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

A clinic is held twice a month at Barnstaple and Bideford Hospitals.

14. BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

A clinic is held once a month at the North Devon Dispensary, Barnstaple.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

Diseases.	Total Number of cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Diptheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum ..	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0	0	0
Measles	41	0	0
Whooping Cough..	0	0	0
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	0	0	0

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	2	4	0	0	0	0
2 years	3	4	0	0	0	0
3 "	0	3	0	0	0	0
4 "	2	2	0	0	0	0
5-9 "	9	9	0	0	0	0
10-14 "	0	2	0	1	0	0
15-24 "	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17	24	0	1	0	0

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This is now combined with whooping cough vaccine and Tetanus Toxoid for children under 5 years of age. Older children are given a combination of Diptheria vaccine and Tetanus Toxoid.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the register was as follows:-

		31st. Dec. 1963.
(a) Pulmonary	Males	3
	Females..	3
(b) Non Pulmonary ..	Males	1
	Females..	2
	Total	9
Total cases on Register, December 31st. 1963		18
" " " " " " 1962		27
" " " " " " 1961		27
" " " " " " 1960		28
" " " " " " 1959		28
" " " " " " 1958		27
" " " " " " 1957		27
" " " " " " 1956		24
" " " " " " 1955		24
" " " " " " 1954		23
" " " " " " 1953		27
" " " " " " 1952		26

1. NEW CASES.

During the year 1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified in accordance with the Regulation.

TUBERCULOSIS

(Contd.)

The following are the notifications for the preceding twelve years:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1962	1	0	1
1961	0	0	0
1960	0	0	0
1959	1	0	1
1958	1	1	2
1957	2	3	5
1956	1	0	1
1955	2	1	3
1954	2	1	3
1953	0	1	1
1952	1	0	1
1951	1	0	1

MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS

TOTAL DEATHS, 1963 - 0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	AGE IN YEARS 1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over.
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diptheria.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung,Bronchus.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Diabetes.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	F	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Coronary Disease, Angina.	M	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVEIW

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	Total all Ages.	Under 4 Weeks	AGE IN YEARS 1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
	F	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Other Heart Disease.	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	F	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Other Circulatory Disease.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis.	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
system.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pregnancy,Childbirth,Abortion.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2
Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle accidents.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
All Other Accidents.	M	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide.	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide and Operations of War.	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	30	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	3	4	15
TOTAL ALL CAUSES.	M	23	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	8	11

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE SURVEYOR, ENGINEER AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Grenville House,
The Quay,
Bideford.

August, 1964.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1963, dealing with the various matters which come within the purview of this Department.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

L. J. DUNN.

Surveyor.

HOUSING

The Council own sites in four Parishes which are available and ripe for development and during the past year it appears that there is a need for two-bedroomed bungalows and a small number of family houses in various parts of the district.

Accordingly, the Council decided to consider recommencing the building programme and as a matter of policy decided that two-bedroomed bungalows should be built where required which would suit the needs of old persons and newly married couples, rather than one-bedroomed bungalows which severely limits their occupation by any other than old persons.

At the time of writing the report a tender has been accepted for the erection of three bungalows at Northgate, Hartland, and it has been decided to proceed with the erection of six bungalows and three three-bedroomed houses at Milton Road, Monkleigh, and three three-bedroomed houses and two bungalows at Newton St. Petrock. It is anticipated that this development will be completed by April, 1966, by which time it is anticipated plans will be prepared for the erection of more dwellings in other Parishes.

There are a number of three-bedroomed houses occupied by 1 or 2 people and, obviously, this is very wasteful of accommodation and the present plans to build more bungalows will make available full use of the existing accommodation, if tenants can be persuaded to move into these new dwellings and it is suggested that the incentive to accomplish this aim must be lower rents for the bungalows.

Mention was made in the last Annual Report to the hope that the County Council would have been able to formulate some proposal whereby they would, as the Welfare Authority, subsidize the erection of bungalows, specifically for old people but this has not occured and there seems little hope of the Council obtaining such a subsidy which is given only where a warden service is provided, it is thought that at least 20 bungalows are required on one site to make a warden service economical, and this is not a practical proposition in the District.

Only four new dwellinghouses were erected by private enterprise during the year, the smallest number for a considerable time, but recently the pace of private enterprise building has increased considerably which will be shown in the next Annual Report.

The following table enumerates the number of houses owned by the Council in the various Parishes and whether pre-war, war-time or post-war houses:-

Pre-war Houses.

Abbotsham	2
Alwington	4
Buckland Brewer	1
Clovelly	1
Hartland	4
Littleham	2
Monkleigh	2
Parkham	4
Woolsery	2
Total	22

War-time Houses.

In 1944 the Council built four houses:-

Natcott, Hartland	2
Crosspark, Woolsery.	2
	4

Post-war Houses.

Abbotsham	6
Alwington	6
Buckland Brewer	12
Bulkworthy	2
Clovelly	8
East Putford	2
Hartland.	32
Littleham	4
Monkleigh	12
Parkham	6
Welcombe	2
Total	92

HOUSING GRANTS.

Since the inception of the scheme to give grants for the improvement of older houses the Council has fully supported the scheme and grants in respect of 225 properties have been approved, which amounts to approximately one-fifth of the total number of dwellinghouses in the district. Without doubt this grant scheme has prolonged the life of many dwellings, in addition to providing the essential amenities for a satisfactory dwellinghouse.

During the year under review Standard Grants were approved in respect of 30 properties and £3,606. 10. 2. was paid out on completed works in respect of such grants. Four Discretionary Grants were approved and £1,876. 15. 4. was paid out on completed works.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

No Statutory Notices were served in respect of any properties during the year under review.

There are no common lodging houses or houses in multiple occupation in the district.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All the 14 Parishes in the district have main piped water supplies available in part and the statutory water undertakers who have completed this work are the North Devon Water Board. The main sources of supply are outside the district, being on Dartmoor and Exmoor but a small impounding reservoir at Melbury, originally the source of supply for the Northam U.D.C., supplies a few properties in the north-eastern part of the district.

Generally the district is well covered with mains, but no doubt in the years to come there will be further extensions to the smaller hamlets in the various Parishes and one such extension was carried out during the year by the North Devon Water Board to Bucks Mills from the main which runs along the A.39 Trunk Road near Bucks Cross.

The new service reservoir near Welcombe Cross has been completed by the Water Board and this is bringing a supply of water to the Parish of Welcombe, in addition to taking a supply across the border into part of the Stratton Rural District.

37 new connections have been made to the mains throughout the district during the year under review and the situation with regard to domestic water supplies in the various Parishes is detailed hereunder:-

PARISH.	No. of domestic properties supplied.	Estimated No. of persons supplied.
ABBOTSHAM.	103	296
ALWINGTON.	74	213
BUCKLAND BREWER	96	277
BULKWORTHY	15	43
CLOVELLY	169	487
EAST PUTFORD	14	40
HARTLAND	287 (includes 18 houses on standpipe supplies)	827
LANDCROSS	24	69
LITTLEHAM	62	179
MONKLEIGH	103	296
NEWTON ST. PETROCK.	38	109
PARKHAM	124	367
WOOLSERY	123	354

Main water supplies are sampled regularly throughout the district and no complaints have been received with regard to the quantity or quality of same but in periods of drought it is still found necessary to restrict the use of water for domestic purposes only, but it is understood that the Water Board are planning to increase the supply both to meet the increasing demand throughout the year and the seasonal increase which is quite considerable over the area which is very popular with holidaymakers.

The number of individual grants given by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to farms for their private supplies has dwindled to practically none but, at the same time, that Department have helped the rural water supply needs in that they frequently give grants to the Water Board to assist them to extend their mains to outlying areas in order that farms and farm cottages can be supplied which would not be the case but for the grant given for agricultural needs.

Nine samples were taken from private supplies during the year, four of which fell within the normal range considered to be satisfactory for shallow wells. Advice is given as to how best to prevent contamination to private water supplies, but since the majority of the private supplies are very shallow sources, in many cases it is impossible to exclude pollution entirely. In some cases satisfactory springs are tapped which obtain a supply from a deeper source but these are few and far between.

SEWERAGE.

All the Villages and Hamlets in the district either have an adequate sewerage and sewage disposal scheme or such a scheme is in course of preparation and the plan to provide this service, formulated in early post-war years, is nearly complete and the total cost is likely to be in the region of £175,000.

The present situation is as detailed hereunder:-

Buckland Brewer	-	completed in 1952.
Higher Clovelly	-	completed in 1959.
Lower Clovelly	-	New tidal tank provided in 1950.
Hartland	-	completed in 1961.
Horns Cross	-	completed in 1948.
Littleham.	-	completed in 1963.
Monkleigh	-	completed in 1957.
Parkham	-	completed in 1954.
Saltrens	-	completed in 1955.
Stoke	-	completed in 1960.

It is anticipated that shortly sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Ford/Fairy Cross and Woodtown in the Parish of Alwington will be started and plans are nearly complete for such a scheme at Bucks Cross and Bucks Mills, which will have a controlled sea outfall through a tidal tank.

The Village of Woolsery scheme is in the early stages of preparation where the new scheme will replace that which exists but has been a source of trouble for some years and is limiting development of this Key Settlement.

The pattern of future development at Abbotsham is not clear and a sewerage scheme for this Village must wait until a final decision on the extent of the new development is made.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The present arrangement of refuse collection by Contract, which serves all the District with the exception of outlying farms and cottages has proved satisfactory and gradually the service is being extended to include those properties.

In the majority of the district there is a fortnightly collection service in the summer and four-weekly in the winter, but in Hartland Town a weekly collection is maintained throughout the year, and in Lower Clovelly owing to the peculiar circumstances of that area, twice weekly collections are in operation.

The adequate control of indiscriminate dumping at refuse dumps is increasingly difficult and whilst this is not the cause of any nuisance from the public health point of view it is a nuisance to our Contractor, in so far as it interferes with the proper disposal of refuse by him, and steps are being taken to provide dumps where this problem will not continually arise.

Trouble is also being experienced in obtaining suitable refuse dumps in various parts of the district, but this question is still being pursued and the provision of a new dump in the Hartland area is now an urgent matter.

The provision of litter bins along the main roads in the district has been increased, and has proved to be beneficial in keeping the countryside tidy.

PUBLIC SWIMMING FACILITIES

Open sea bathing is available at many points along the coastline of the district which is being visited increasingly by holidaymakers and there have been no complaints of oil pollution on the beaches - this nuisance has decreased in recent years, no doubt due to the agreement reached between the maritime powers recently.

During the year under review there were no public swimming baths in the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

A "nil" return was again sent to the Ministry of Health by the Medical Officer of Health early this year.

FOOD PREMISES.

No contraventions of the regulations relating to food premises were found during the year.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, all meat is obtained from the centralised slaughterhouse in the adjacent Borough of Bideford.

PLANS AND PLANNING CONTROL.

Details of plans submitted to the Council for consideration under the Building Byelaws and under the Delegation Agreement of the Town and Country Planning Acts are as follows:-

BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number approved	47

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS.

Number approved	76
Number refused	14.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES.

All the licensed caravan and camping sites in the district, which are those used for any length of time, are now provided with basic amenities of adequate water supply, sanitary accommodation, in the form of flush water closets, and means for disposal of refuse and where sites are used by static caravans, being those which remain on the site throughout the summer, washing facilities and in some cases showers are also provided.

The licensed sites are never full to their capacity but there is still a tendancy for individuals to use odd fields in the district where no such facilities are provided, but nothing can be done about this under the present legislation unless the use leads to a nuisance under the Public Health Acts, but to date no such cases have been found.

The problem of overnight parking on the roadside and in laybys is less serious than in some years ago but no positive steps have yet been taken to prevent this in the County and such action must be approached at County level rather than district basis, to be at all effective.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1947.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	9	13	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	15	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND - NIL.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110: No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	Section 110: No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	Section 110: No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	Section 111: No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Section 111: Notices served. (6)	Section 111: Prosecutions. (7)
Wearing Apparel) Making etc.,) cleaning) and) washing	10					